



A Quarterly Newsletter by the City of Fort Smith

October, 2008

CHAFFEE CROSSING ENLISTS NEW BUSINESSES

The City of Fort Smith, the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, Sebastian County and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission have collaborated to bring 3 new manufacturing plants to Chaffee Crossing in the last year. The companies will invest \$117 million in their plants and are expected to initially employ more than 400 people in their new plants.



Mars Petcare USA is constructing a 240,000 square foot pet food manufacturing plant on 40 acres at the southeast corner of Chad Colley and Roberts Blvds. Mars is an internationally recognized food company, best known for its Snickers and M & M's candies and Uncle Ben's rice. They expect to begin producing gourmet pet food in Fort Smith in spring 2009. Upon opening, Mars

The Fort Smith area economy saw a near record high number of jobs last June. During that month, 134,110 persons were employed in the 5-county Fort Smith metropolitan area. This is an increase of 14% over the lowest employment level during the last 10 years. The region's economy continues providing more jobs to sustain steady growth.

Petcare is expected to employ 200 persons. The plant has the capability of doubling in size.

See **Chaffee Crossing**, page 2

Downtown Development Thrives

A thriving downtown is a sign of a healthy community. Downtowns serve as the community's town center, they communicate an important part of the city's identity and image, and they provide a mixture of uses in a centralized area.

The 1996 tornado that devastated the west end of Garrison Ave. provided an opportunity to revitalize several blocks of the downtown thoroughfare. Eateries, entertainment venues, shopping, public parking areas, a farmers market, residential development, streetscaping and parks have transformed the western areas of downtown Fort Smith into a vibrant destination.

Redevelopment at the eastern end of Garrison Ave. and downtown is picking up pace. Along Garrison Ave. east of 8th Street, new restaurants and merchants have opened, Arvest Bank will open a new branch, and luxury loft condominiums are under construction. The former Davis

Furniture building at the corner of Garrison and 9th St. has new owners and is undergoing renovation. Neumeier's Rib Room is expected to return in the spring with a new facade and music garden. The city is aiding the development with streetscape improvements and a newly landscaped entry into downtown Fort Smith at Grand Ave. and North 11th St.

The resurgence of downtown Fort Smith is continuing with significant private and public investment. Information about downtown projects and happenings may be found on the Internet at www.godowntownfs.com.

Downtown Development Facts for 2008

Private Investment:	\$4 million
Number of New Businesses:	8
Number of New Employees:	120
Streetscaping Improvements	\$1 million

Roadway Project Plans

A long-time Fort Smith manufacturer, PRADCO Outdoor Brands, will soon begin construction of a new 300,000 square foot plant on 67 acres south of Custer Blvd. and west of the I-49 corridor. PRADCO may employ as many as 225 people at its new facility, an increase of 75 over its current employment level. PRADCO makes fishing lures. Its products may be found in Wal-Mart, Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's and many neighborhood tackle and hunting stores. The Fort Smith Public School District will be acquiring PRADCO's existing manufacturing property on Jenny Lind Rd.

Umarex USA, a manufacturer and distributor of air guns and firearms under names such as Walther, will be constructing a 105,000 square foot plant and distribution center. Umarex USA will initially employ 60 people at its new location with a potential of doubling its Fort Smith workforce in 3 years.

These new plants demonstrate the confidence industries have in the Fort Smith region. A well-trained and reliable work force, abundant utilities, excellent transportation networks, and a low cost of doing business make Fort Smith a desirable location for industrial development.

Fort Smith motorists will see construction on 3 significant roadway projects beginning later this year and next year. All of the projects will help traffic flow more smoothly and improve driver and pedestrian safety.

Rogers Ave.

Congestion on westbound Rogers Ave. east of I-540 will be alleviated with the construction of a third traffic lane between Cliff Dr. and the interstate on ramp. This new lane will allow motorists traveling west on Rogers Ave. to northbound I-540 a quicker route through the intersection. Traffic continuing west on Rogers Ave. will flow more smoothly.

Construction is underway and should be completed by early November in advance of the holiday shopping season. Lane closures on Rogers Ave. during construction will occur only during the night to minimize traffic delays.

Jenny Lind Rd.

Jenny Lind Rd. between Cavanaugh Rd. and Zero St. will be widened to 4 lanes with a center turn lane. The project also includes extending Ingersoll Rd. from Jenny Lind Rd. to U.S. Highway 71B. This will provide an additional link between U.S. Highways 271 and 71B. The intersection of Jenny Lind Rd. and Ingersoll will be signalized. Roadway landscaping and other aesthetic features will be included in the roadway design.

This phase of the Jenny Lind Rd. project is estimated to cost \$16 million. The project is benefitting from a \$7.2 million grant from the federal government. The remaining \$8.8 million will come from the 1¢ sales tax for

streets, bridges and drainage improvements.

Design engineering is underway and will be completed next year. Following right-of-way acquisition, construction is expected to begin in 2010.

Work to rehabilitate Jenny Lind Rd. between Dodson Ave. and Dallas St. is underway and should be completed early next year. The city has requested federal grant funding for the third phase of the Jenny Lind Rd. project between Phoenix Ave. and Dallas St. The final phase will be the stretch between Zero St. and Phoenix Ave.

Old Greenwood Rd.

The city and the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Dept. are partnering to accelerate reconstruction and widening of Old Greenwood Rd. between Phoenix Ave. and Zero St. This project will replace the current 2-lane bridge over I-540 with a 5-lane bridge and widen the roadway to 5 lanes. Some of the interstate on and off ramps at the Old Greenwood Rd. interchange will be reconfigured.

The Old Greenwood Rd. project is estimated to cost \$13.4 million. The city is providing \$7.6 million and AHTD is funding the remaining costs. Design engineering work is underway. Construction is expected to begin by early 2010 and be completed by the end of 2011.

All of these projects will improve the flow of traffic and assist business development in Fort Smith. Voter support of the 1¢ sales tax for streets, bridges and drainage improvements allows the city to keep pace with these transportation needs.

Massard Road Project Receives Award

The construction of Massard Rd. into Chaffee Crossing south of Zero St. was recognized by the Oklahoma/Arkansas chapter of the American Concrete Paving Assn. The association named the project its 2007 gold winner for concrete roadway projects in the 2-state region.

The new 2 mile long roadway was constructed with 12,000 cubic yards of

concrete transported in nearly 1,300 truck loads. Project costs totaled \$6.2 million. The roadway was designed to be expanded in the future to a 4-lane boulevard.

The project was designed by Mickle Wagner Coleman Engineers and constructed by Forsgren, Inc., all of Fort Smith. Design and construction was overseen by the Fort Smith engineering dept.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO TOWN?

Winter weather doesn't chill building activity in Fort Smith. Here's a list from the Fort Smith building dept. of significant new construction projects underway.

<i>Cheddars Casual Cafe</i>	4001 Phoenix Ave.	Nov., 2008
<i>Fastenal</i>	2907 McKinley Ave.	Winter, 2008
<i>Central Christian Church</i> worship center	400 N. Waldron Rd.	Winter, 2008
<i>Lane Bryant, Michaels, Shoe Carnival & Ulta</i>	4001 Phoenix Ave.	Jan., 2009
<i>FAN Furniture</i>	3500 Jenny Lind	Jan., 2009
<i>The Woods at Chaffee Crossing</i> residential subdivision	Massard Rd. at Zero St.	Ongoing
<i>Taco Bell</i>	9203 Hwy. 71	Jan., 2009
<i>Air-Pro Heating and Air</i>	9105 Zero St.	Jan., 2009
<i>Hilton Homewood Suites</i> hotel	7300 Phoenix Ave.	Jan., 2009
<i>Albert Pike Elementary School</i> addition	4111 Park Ave.	Spring, 2009
<i>Cisterna Woods</i> residential subdivision	Chaffee Crossing along Massard Rd.	Ongoing
<i>River Valley Musculoskeletal Center</i> hospital addition	3601 W.E. Knight Dr.	Spring, 2009
<i>Mars PetCare</i> manufacturing plant	10000 Roberts Blvd.	Spring, 2009
<i>River Valley Pediatric Dentistry</i>	3421 Old Greenwood Rd.	Spring, 2009
<i>Chick-fil-A</i> restaurant	4001 Phoenix Ave.	Spring, 2009
<i>First National Bank</i>	800 Phoenix Ave.	Spring, 2009
<i>Willowbrook</i> residential subdivision	Brooken Hill Dr. at Hwy. 253	Ongoing
<i>Longhorn Steak House</i>	7110 Rogers Ave.	Spring, 2009
<i>McDonald's</i> restaurant	5712 Kelley Hwy.	Spring, 2009
<i>Whole Hog Cafe</i>	4501 Burrough Rd.	Spring, 2009
<i>Best Western Hotel</i>	6500 Rogers Ave.	Summer, 2009



Fort Smith Named U.S.A.'s Best Housing Value

CNN and Money magazine recently concluded what Fort Smith homeowners already know - Fort Smith is the best housing value in the United States!

The editors ranked Fort Smith # 1 on a list of the 25 best housing values in the country. They noted that residents who buy homes in these communities see their incomes go the furthest. Fort Smith was joined on the list by other cities such as St. Charles, Mo., Des Moines, Iowa, North Augusta, S. Car., and Bella Vista, Ark.

Investing in a home in Fort Smith has many rewards, not the least of which is being a wise financial decision. The American dream flourishes in Fort Smith.

Don't forget to change your clocks 1 hour back before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 1. It's also a good time to put fresh batteries in your home's smoke detectors.



*Never succumb to
the temptation of
bitterness.*

...Martin Luther King, Jr.

Board Names New City Administrator



Dennis Kelly, formerly of North Miami, Fla., has been appointed Fort Smith's new city administrator. He began his Fort Smith duties earlier this month.

Kelly was selected by the board of directors from 39 applicants following a nationwide search. He was the deputy city manager for the City of North Miami since 2004 and has 33 years experience in city management. Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in government from Florida State University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of West Florida. He's also a retired colonel from the U.S. Army

Reserve, and served active duty from 1970-72 with an assignment in Vietnam.

In his new position, Kelly is responsible for providing research, analysis and policy guidance to the board of directors, implementing the board's decisions, preparing the city's annual budget and leading the city's work force. The City of Fort Smith has an annual operating budget of \$102 million, a yearly capital improvements budget of \$99 million and approximately 900 employees.

Kelly has 2 grown daughters and 3½ grandchildren. His oldest daughter has 3 girls and his youngest daughter is expecting her first child – a girl – in December. In his spare time, Kelly enjoys golf and flying cross country as a private pilot. *THE FOCUS* congratulates Dennis Kelly on his appointment as Fort Smith's city administrator.

Your **vote** Counts - 4 Easy Tips

This year's Presidential election and numerous state and local races are expected to bring heavy voter turnout on election day. The polls will be open Tuesday, November 4th from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters will have the choice of using the new, electronic touch screens or the traditional paper ballots.

Voters can help the election process by

1. Knowing their polling place ahead of time. Your voter registration card states where you should vote. You can find your polling place online by going to www.fortsmithar.gov. Under the "Where I Live" section, simply

enter your address to learn where you vote.

2. Having a photo ID ready for the poll workers.
3. Being familiar with the election ballot ahead of time. Sample ballots will appear in the Times Record newspaper a few days before the election.
4. Cooperating with instructions given by poll workers. They're following procedures required by state law and the election commission to ensure the integrity of the election process.

Citizens are encouraged to vote

early. Early voting is underway at the Sebastian County Courthouse, 35 South 6th St., room G8 and at the Greenwood Courthouse. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Voters may also cast early ballots on Saturday, October 25th and November 1st from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Courtesy parking is available along Rogers Ave. adjacent to the courthouse north entrance. Early voting ends at 5 p.m. on Monday, November 3rd.

Residents with election questions may call the Sebastian County Clerk's office at 782-5065.



Good Community Living Tip

With winter weather just around the corner, now is the time to have your home's or business' heating system serviced. Most furnace manufacturers recommend that they be checked by a qualified service technician at the start of each heating season. A deep freeze in January isn't the time to learn your furnace needs maintenance. Be sure to use a licensed contractor. It's also a good idea to check that your

carbon monoxide detector is working properly (if you don't have one, you should!), make certain that there's no combustibles like gasoline or paint stored near your furnace, and that your furnace has adequate air flow for the fire to properly burn. If the burners show any signs of rust or if there's broken flue piping, contact a licensed service contractor before starting your furnace. Proper maintenance of your heating system will keep you warm throughout the winter and may save your life!

Good community living tips are offered to help improve everyone's quality of life in Fort Smith.

Neighborhoods Strengthened with Residential Parking Ordinances

The board of directors greatly enhanced neighborhood preservation with the passage of 2 new residential parking ordinances. The new ordinances complement previous ordinances which regulate the sale of vehicles and the parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas. One of the new ordinances addresses parking in yards, and the other specifies where recreational and utility vehicles may be parked.



Parking in Yards

Beginning January 1st, the following parking requirements will help improve the appearance of residential properties. These apply to 1 and 2 family dwellings.

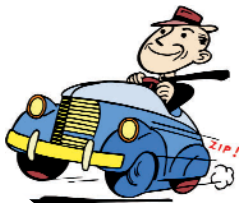
- No more than 6 vehicles may be parked in the front yard or corner lot side yard.

Any additional vehicles must be parked in the back yard, which must be screened with a privacy fence.

- Vehicles parked in a front yard must be parked on a hard surface such as concrete, asphalt or brick pavers. Only 1 vehicle may be regularly parked on a grassy area, which must be adjacent to a hard surfaced area. A household visitor may park on the grass for up to 7 consecutive days.
- Existing gravel parking areas, if properly maintained, may continue to be used and expanded for vehicle parking.
- Paved and graveled parking areas may not cover more than 40% of a residence's front yard.
- A building permit is required for the construction of a new driveway or the expansion of an existing parking area.

Recreational and Utility Vehicles

Earlier this month, the parking of recreational and utility vehicles in residential areas became subject to new requirements. These regulations apply to motor homes, travel trailers, folding tent trailers, truck campers, horse trailers and boat trailers.



Drive Friendly Tip

When changing lanes, check your rear view and side view mirrors to make sure another vehicle isn't in the lane you want to enter. Then, look over your shoulder in the direction you plan to move to be sure nobody is in your blind spot. Also, use your turn signals to let other drivers know of your intention to change lanes.

Drive friendly tips are offered by the Fort Smith police dept. and street & traffic control department to help the flow of traffic.

- RV and utility vehicles may not be parked on any residential street, right-of-way, front yard, or corner lot side yard for more than 4 consecutive days.
- Such vehicles may be parked underneath a carport approved by the board of zoning adjustment, regardless of the carport's location.
- Guests may reside in an RV or utility vehicle anywhere on the host's premises for up to 2 weeks in any consecutive 90-day period.

The new ordinances bolster the city's commitment to strengthen the livability and property values of Fort Smith's neighborhoods. Citizens who have questions about these parking requirements or who observe a possible violation may contact the Fort Smith neighborhood services staff at 784-1076 or request service or information via the Internet at <http://mycityservices.net>.

48,000
households and
businesses
could see your
advertisement
here.

Call 784-2201

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant City Clerk Earns Certification

Assistant city clerk **Sherri Gard** has been designated a certified Arkansas municipal clerk by the Arkansas City Clerks-Recorders-Treasurers Assn. She completed training over a 3-year period and had to perform 50% of the core duties of a city clerk for at least 3 years.

Gard has been Fort Smith's assistant city clerk for 12 years. She's been a certified municipal clerk by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks for 6 years and is close to attaining certification as a master municipal clerk. Gard is active in the Arkansas municipal clerks association and serves on its executive committee.

THE FOCUS congratulates Sherri Gard for becoming a certified Arkansas municipal clerk.

Fort Smith's Budget Richly Awarded

The City of Fort Smith has received a *distinguished budget presentation award* from the Government Finance Officers Assn. The award was made for the city's 2008 operating and capital improvement budget, and marked the 20th consecutive year Fort Smith has received the recognition.

The award reflects the commitment of the board of directors and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. Fort Smith's budget was evaluated as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

Of the nearly 36,000 local governments nationwide, Fort Smith was one of only 1,127 to receive the highest award in governmental budgeting. The only other Arkansas cities receiving the award are Bentonville, Fayetteville, Little Rock, Conway and Hot Springs.

Fort Smith's budget is available for review at any public library, at the city's finance department, 623 Garrison Ave., suite 512 or online at www.fortsmithar.gov.

Hometown Hospitality Hero

Fort Smith and our region benefit tremendously from conventions and events brought to our area. Attracting these happenings relies on the efforts of everyone in the hospitality industry. However, some of the best leads come from local citizens.

The newest hometown hospitality hero is **Dan Beam**. The owner of Flame Gymnastics has recently brought 6 tournaments with more than 12,600 people to Fort Smith. Each tournament produces an average economic benefit of \$325,000 for the region's economy. On behalf of Fort Smith's hospitality industry, *THE FOCUS* thanks Dan Beam for bringing gymnastics tournaments to our area.

Contact the Fort Smith convention and visitors bureau to see how you and your group can be recognized as a Fort Smith hometown hospitality hero. Call Ramona Moon at 783-8888.



This motto was originated to bring awareness to motorcyclists on the roadways today. With the increasing price of gasoline, many people are using motorcycles as their primary means of transportation.

Unfortunately, these vehicles may be harder to see than a car or truck. Many serious accidents happen to cyclists because a driver of a car or truck didn't see them.

Even though the motto began as a motorcyclist awareness program, it can easily apply to a motorist driving any type of vehicle. Before crossing a street or making a turn....it's simple...look both ways twice just to be safe. That second look may save someone's life.

AND AWARDS

Former Judge Appointed City Prosecutor



Fort Smith's new city prosecutor is **John Settle**. He began his duties last month, and replaces Claire Borengasser who was elected as a district court judge earlier this year.

Settle holds a juris doctorate degree from the University of Arkansas law school. He's been an attorney for 31 years. Settle's

experience includes service as a public defender, municipal court judge and in private practice.

In his new position, Settle is responsible for prosecuting a variety of cases ranging from traffic tickets to misdemeanor offenses to property maintenance code violations in Fort Smith District Court. He's expected to handle more than 3,000 cases a year.

Settle was selected from a group of applicants across Arkansas. The selection committee included district court judges, a prosecuting attorney, a police officer and city staff.

City Director Elected to Arkansas Municipal League Leadership

Fort Smith city director **Gary Campbell** has been elected first vice president of the Arkansas Municipal League (AML). He's been an at-large city director for 13½ years. Campbell is the first AML officer from Fort Smith in over 30 years.

In his role as first vice president, Campbell will continue to serve on the AML's executive committee. Other responsibilities include serving on the investment committee, the AML legal defense program steering committee and assisting the president around the state. Traditionally, the first vice president is elected president of the Arkansas Municipal League the following year.

The AML, founded in 1934, represents all 500 cities and towns in Arkansas. The league provides training for elected and appointed officials, advocates in the state legislature and with the congressional delegation on behalf of Arkansas' municipalities, and offers various program and insurance services to its members.



Fast Facts About Fort Smith

The Fort Smith public libraries had nearly 425,000 visitors last year. Also in 2007, Fort Smith public library patrons checked out more than 486,000 books, CD's, DVD's and other materials.

Bomb Squad Bursts With Pride

The Fort Smith fire dept. bomb squad was recently recognized as the best bomb squad in Arkansas at a statewide competition. Arkansas has 5 bomb squads. Fort Smith is one of the Natural State's newer squads.

The Fort Smith bomb squad covers 6 counties in western Arkansas. They may be called upon to go anywhere in Arkansas and some areas in eastern Oklahoma. Through the first 9 months of 2008, the Fort Smith bomb squad has responded to 12 calls for service.

The Fort Smith squad is comprised of 4 firefighters who have received extensive training in explosives analysis and their safe disposal. Significant funding for the training and equipment has been provided by homeland security grants from the federal government.

THE FOCUS congratulates the Fort Smith fire dept. bomb squad for being named the best in Arkansas.






Graci, bomb response robot, on her first call



ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR



UA Fort Smith Theater	Oct. 30 - Nov. 1	UA Fort Smith's theater program presents an original show about living in the new millennium. A dazzling display of aerobatics, dance, stomp-like rhythms, singing and acting tell the story of what it means to be young in the modern world. 788-7300 or www.uafortsmith.edu for show times and tickets.
39th Annual Immaculate Conception Church Bazaar	Nov. 1-2	Find Christmas decorations, needleworks and crafts, homebaked goods, casseroles to go and more at this tradition of the holiday season. FREE admission. 648-8675 for info.
Old Fort Celtic Festival	Nov. 8	Irish dancers, Gaelic music, cultural workshops, large children's area Fort Smith Convention Center. 420-7795 for info and tickets.
Neil Berg's 101 Years of Broadway 	Nov. 15	A re-creation of the biggest moments from the finest Broadway shows of the century, featuring the actual stars of shows such as The Phantom of the Opera, CATS, Jesus Christ Superstar and Fiddler on the Roof. Presented by UA Fort Smith at the Fort Smith Convention Center. 788-7300 or www.uafortsmith.edu for tickets.
UA Fort Smith Jazz Band	Nov. 20	Join the UA Fort Smith Jazz Band for a celebration of the best of jazz at the Fort Smith Convention Center. 788-7300 or www.uafortsmith.edu for tickets.
Great Russian Nutcracker	Nov. 29	Join the Moscow Ballet for this holiday favorite. Fort Smith Convention Center. 1-800-737-4040 or www.ticketbound.com for tickets.
Oliver	Dec. 1	One of Broadway's most memorable scores surrounds this heartwarming tale of the young orphan Oliver Twist. Presented by UA Fort Smith at the Fort Smith Convention Center. 788-7300 or www.uafortsmith.edu for tickets.
Fort Smith Chorale Christmas Program	Dec. 4 & 5	The Chorale presents a favorite selection of Christmas hymns. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available online at www.fortsmithchorale.com , by calling 242-7464, or at Newton's Jewelers on Garrison Ave. after Nov. 4.
A Keyboard Christmas	Dec. 6	The Fort Smith Symphony presents its holiday show at the Fort Smith Convention Center. 452-7575 or www.fortsmithsymphony.org for tickets
8th Annual Creekmore Holiday Express	Dec. 8-23	Ride the miniature train, visit Santa Claus and enjoy dozens of animated light displays. Monday-Saturday, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
UA Fort Smith Season's Greetings Concert & Campus Lighting	Dec. 9	Join the UAFS Symphonic Band, Chorale, Jazz Catz and 1 special guests for your favorite holiday hits at the Stubblefield Center. Stay for the campus green lighting. 788-7300 for info. 
The Nutcracker	Dec. 13	Presented by the Western Arkansas Ballet at the Fort Smith Convention Center. 785-0152 for show times and tickets.
Mayor's New Year's Eve Party	Dec. 31	Dance to the music of the Nearly Famous Dance Band. FREE admission and refreshments. Fort Smith Convention Center, 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
The Sleeping Beauty 	Jan. 19	Join the Russian National Ballet for one of the finest achievements of classical ballet. Presented by UA Fort Smith at the Fort Smith Convention Center. 788-7300 or www.uafortsmith.edu for tickets.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the City of Fort Smith!

Holiday Sanitation Schedule

During the upcoming holiday season, residential sanitation services will be provided on the following schedule:

Clip and Save.....Clip and Save.....Clip and Save.....Clip and Save



Veteran's Day

**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 11**

RESIDENTIAL COLLECTIONS
NORMALLY OCCURRING ON
TUES., NOV. 11 WILL BE MADE
ON WED., NOV. 12. THE
LANDFILL WILL BE OPEN
FROM 7:30 - 11:30 A.M. ON
VETERAN'S DAY.



Thanksgiving Day

Residential collections
normally occurring on
Thursdays will be made on

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 26**

THE LANDFILL WILL BE
CLOSED ON
THANKSGIVING DAY.

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 25**

Christmas Day



RESIDENTIAL COLLECTIONS
NORMALLY MADE ON
THURSDAYS WILL BE
OCCURRING ON
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24. ALL
RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION
SERVICES WILL BE
PROVIDED AS USUAL ON
FRI., DEC. 26. THE LANDFILL
WILL BE CLOSED ON
CHRISTMAS DAY AND WILL
CLOSE AT 11:30 A.M.
ON FRI., DEC 26.



Holiday Tree Recycling

**LIVE HOLIDAY TREES
WILL BE COLLECTED
FOR RECYCLING
DURING JANUARY.**

REMEMBER:

REMOVE all ornaments, lights, tinsel
and tree stand.

Place the tree at your usual
collection location.

Questions?.... Call 784-2350

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE
FORT SMITH

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION!!

**THURSDAY,
JANUARY 1**



NEW YEAR'S DAY

Residential collections
normally occurring on
Thursdays will be made on
Wed., Dec. 31. The landfill
will be open from
7:30 - 11:30 a.m. on
New Year's Day.

**Martin
Luther King
Jr. Day**



**January 19,
2009**

RESIDENTIAL COLLECTIONS
NORMALLY OCCURRING ON
MONDAY, JAN. 19 WILL BE
MADE ON WED., JAN. 21. THE
LANDFILL WILL BE OPEN
FROM 7:30 - 11:30 A.M.
ON MLK DAY.

Holiday Safety Tips

WHEN YOU'RE SHOPPING:

- * Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- * Don't overload yourself with bags. You are easy prey for a pickpocket.
- * Park in well-lighted areas, lock your car, and hide bags in the trunk.
- * Carry your purse close to your body. Put your wallet in an inside pocket, not an unbuttoned rear pocket.

WHEN YOU'RE HOME

- * Don't keep gifts or packages near windows where they can be seen from the street.
- * Never hide presents in the garage. Garage locks are usually the weakest lock in your home.
- * After presents are opened, break up boxes for things like TV's, stereos or electronic equipment and put them in garbage bags for collection.

TAKING CARE OF EVERYONE'S BEST FRIEND



Fort Smith Parks Host Holiday Happenings

Fort Smith parks are a great place for family fun during the holiday season. The 8th annual Creekmore holiday express kicks off on Monday, December 8th with miniature train rides through the tunnel of lights, dozens of animated light displays, Santa Claus and fireworks. The train rides and light displays continue Monday - Saturday from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. through December 23rd.

The downtown parks will be lit up for the holidays. FREE family movies will be shown at the River Park Pavilion, 100 North B St. On Friday, December 12th, *A Christmas Carol* will be featured, and on Friday, December 19th, *Polar Express* will entertain the family. Both movies begin at 7 p.m. Hot popcorn and wintertime beverages will be available.

More information about holiday events in Fort Smith parks is available on the Internet at www.fortsmithparks.com or by calling 784-2368.

A responsibility of good community living is taking proper care of your pets. Dogs are man's best friend and the most common pet. The city has a few regulations to make sure dogs are properly cared for and don't become a nuisance to your neighbors.

First, you should never allow your dog to run at large. The dog may become lost, might be injured by a vehicle or another dog, or may intimidate or harass other people. Dogs must be kept confined or on a leash under control.

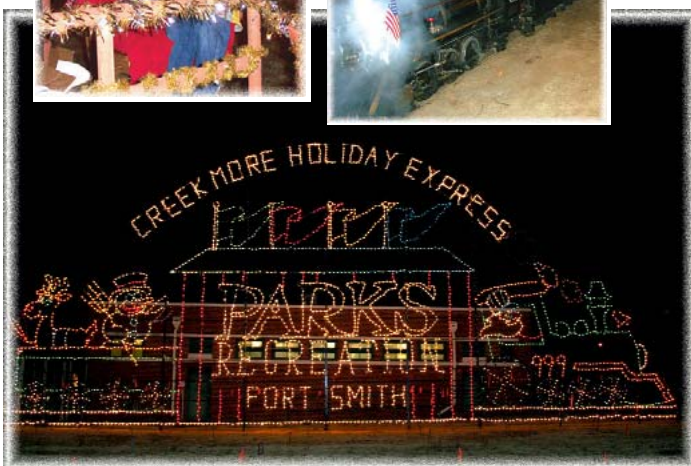
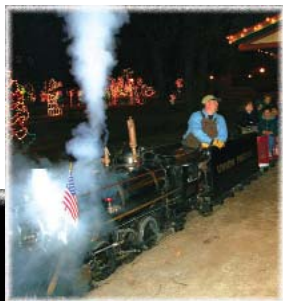
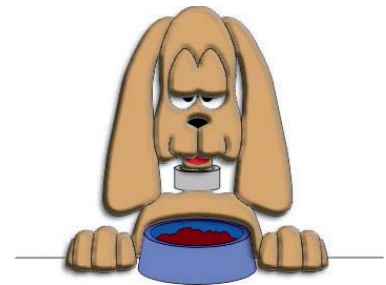
Next, dogs shouldn't be allowed to frequently howl or bark to a point where they disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. If you experience this problem, you should first discuss your concern with the dog's owner. If this doesn't resolve the problem, you may contact the city prosecutor's office to file a complaint. The police may not issue citations for barking dogs. The person whose peace is being disturbed must be willing to file a complaint for the law to be enforced.

A city ordinance also limits the number of dogs that may be kept on a residential property. Generally, no

more than 4 dogs may be kept by any household. Up to 6 dogs may be kept if at least 4 of the dogs have been spayed or neutered. In no case may more than 6 dogs be kept on a residential property. Puppies 4 months of age or younger are excluded from these limits.

Lastly, it's important that you provide adequate food, water and shelter for your dog. Failure to do so may be harmful for the animal and could result in cruelty to animal charges.

Residents needing more information about responsible dog ownership may contact the Fort Smith police dept. animal control office at 784-1040, the Fort Smith police animal control supervisor at 709-5017, or the Sebastian County Humane Society at 783-4395 or online at www.sebastiancountyhumanesociety.org.



NOTES

FOCUS ON FORT SMITH is circulated quarterly to all residences and businesses in the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Please address all correspondence to:

THE FOCUS
City of Fort Smith
P.O. Box 1908
Fort Smith, AR 72902

or
focus@fortsmithar.gov

Ray Gosack & Barbara Chatham, Editors
Cindy Remler, Associate Editor

To place an advertisement in *THE FOCUS*, call 784-2201

Printed and mailed by
Calvert McBride

Street Lights Add to Safety

Fort Smith has 6,000 street lights and spends nearly \$1 million annually for operation and maintenance of the lights. Street lights enhance traffic and pedestrian safety by lighting roadways and they enhance neighborhood safety and security.

Street lights periodically burn out or experience other service failures. In residential areas, these outages are detectable only at night. Persons who observe burned out street lights shouldn't assume the outage has already been reported. Residents are encouraged to report street light outages to the Fort Smith street dept. by calling 784-2360, Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Outages may also be reported online by going to www.mycityservices.net. This reporting option is available 24/7.

When reporting outages, residents should be prepared to give the exact location of the street light needing maintenance. If at an intersection, the names of both streets should be provided. If the street light is located mid block, the nearest address should be provided. This information allows the maintenance crew to locate the street light needing repair.

Street lights are maintained by OG&E and Arkansas Valley Electric. Maintenance requests received by the city are promptly forwarded to the responsible electric utility. The electric utilities endeavor to repair malfunctioning street lights within 2 weeks of being notified.

Street lights along thoroughfares such as Rogers Ave., Towson Ave. and Phoenix Ave. are periodically tested during the day by electric maintenance crews. Necessary repairs are immediately made. Residents who see these thoroughfare lights illuminated during the day shouldn't report malfunctions unless the lights are illuminated for a prolonged period.

Street lights are important for traffic safety and for neighborhood safety. Residents who observe malfunctioning street lights are encouraged to report them to the Fort Smith street dept.



Mayor
C. Ray Baker

Board of Directors

Steve Tyler, Ward 1
Andre' Good, Ward 2
Rick Parrish, Ward 3
Bill Maddox, Ward 4
Gary Campbell, At Large,
Position 5
Kevin Settle, At Large,
Position 6
Dr. Cole Goodman, At
Large, Position 7

City Administrator
Dennis Kelly

City Board Meetings

Board of Directors meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. in the Fort Smith Public Schools Service Center, 3205 Jenny Lind Rd., building B. Study sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 12 noon at the main Fort Smith public library, 3201 Rogers Ave.

To learn of agenda information, call the city clerk's office at 784-2208. Agendas with staff reports, a summary of meeting actions, meeting minutes and audio recordings of board meetings may be found on the city's web site at www.fortsmithar.gov. Click on government and then mayor and board of directors.

The public is invited to all meetings. At regular meetings, the public may comment on agenda items and may introduce items involving city government not listed on the agenda.



Grins



To those who
exercise their
right to vote.

*Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...
It's about learning to dance in the rain!*

...Author Unknown



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Colonel ***Tom Anderson***, commander of the 188th Fighter Wing, leads 1,000 national guardsmen at Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Fort Smith. The unit recently traded in 14 F-16 planes for 18 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft. Known as the “Warthog”, the A-10’s were fittingly assigned to the *Flying Razorbacks*.



Photo by Senior Master Sergeant Dennis L Brambl, 188th Fighter Wing